

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6682

Petition of Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. for a)
Certificate of Public Good (CPG) Pursuant to 30 V.S.A.)
§248 for the retirement and removal of the 46/12.47 kV)
H.K. Webster Substation, and for the reconstruction of the)
46/4.16 kV Richford Substation to operate at 46/12.46 kV)
In Re: Amendment to Certificate of Public Good)

Order entered: 9/4/2009

ORDER RE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 24, 2004, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") to Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("VEC") authorizing modifications to VEC's Richford substation.

On July 16, 2009, VEC filed a motion to amend the April 24 CPG to modify two switches, add two poles to support the switches, and reconfigure 1,000 feet of transmission line from a vertical to a horizontal configuration.

On August 18, 2009, the Board issued a memorandum establishing a deadline for comments and requesting comment on whether any additional process was required. The only party to file a response to VEC's motion was the Department of Public Service ("Department"), which supported VEC's request.

In this Order we approve the proposed modifications.

II. FINDINGS

1. VEC proposes to make the following modifications to its Richford substation:
 - (a) VEC will replace two switches, currently mounted in a vertical orientation in a common frame on a single wooden pole, with two horizontal switches, each located on separate poles. The switches will be motor-operated and capable of remote control from VEC's System Operations Center.

(b) VEC will install two new poles, each approximately 48 feet above grade, to support the new switches.

(c) VEC will reconfigure approximately 1,000 feet of transmission line from a vertical orientation to a horizontal orientation to improve ground clearance. The reoriented line will be identical in appearance to the existing transmission line located west of the substation.

Abendroth pf. at 2-3; exh. HRA-6.

2. The existing switches are not suitable for the intended use and must be replaced.

Abendroth pf. at 3.

3. The transmission line near the Richford substation must be reconfigured from a vertical to a horizontal configuration in order to meet clearance requirements. Abendroth pf. at 3.

4. The proposed modifications will not have an impact on any of the criteria of 30 V.S.A § 248 except for Section 248(b)(3) (system stability and reliability). Petition at 2.

5. The proposed modifications will improve system stability and reliability. Abendroth pf. at 4.

III. DISCUSSION

On August 28, 2009, the Department filed a letter supporting the proposed modifications and stating that hearings or further process is not required, "on the condition that the work proceeds as described by VEC." No other party filed comments.

Pursuant to Board Rule 5.408, an amendment to a CPG is required for a substantial change to the approved project. Pursuant to the rule, "a substantial change is a change in the approved proposal that has the potential for significant impact with respect to any of the criteria of Section 248(b) or on the general good of the state under Section 248(a)." We conclude that VEC's proposed modifications to the Richford substation do not raise any issues with respect to the criteria of Section 248(b), or the general good under Section 248(a), with the exception of Section 248(b)(3). We further conclude that the proposed modifications will improve system stability and reliability and will promote the general good of the State of Vermont. Accordingly, we grant VEC's motion to amend and issue an amended CPG for the modifications at the Richford substation.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that the replacement of the existing switches at the Richford substation, in conjunction with the reconfiguration of 1,000 feet of transmission line, in accordance with the evidence and plans presented in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 248, and certificate of public good shall be issued in this matter.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 4th day of September, 2009.

<u>s/James Volz</u>)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: September 4, 2009

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.